Stereotype: A *belief* about a person based on real or perceived group membership

Prejudice: an unjustified *attitude* about a person that predisposes behavior

Stereotype: A *belief* about a person based on real or perceived group membership

Discrimination: Behaving differently toward someone due to prejudice and/or stereotypes

YAHOO! NEWS

Yahoo! News Photo

Associated Press AP - Tue Aug 30,11:31 AM ET

A young man walks through chest deep flood water after looting a grocery store in New Orleans on Tuesday, Aug. 30, 2005. Flood waters continue to rise in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina did extensive damage when it

YAHOO! NEWS

Yahoo! News Photo

AFP AFP/Getty Images - Tue Aug 30, 3:47 AM ET

Two residents wade through chest deep water after finding bread and soda from a local grocery store after Hurricane Katrina came through the area in New Orleans, Louisiana.(AFP/Getty Images/Chris Graythen)

Prejudice: an unjustified *attitude* about a person that predisposes behavior

Unjustified? Based on *faulty generalizations*

In principle, accurate generalizations are based on *logic* and *scientific evidence*

In-group: The group we *currently* view ourselves part of (versus "out-group")

"In-group" = "Us"
"Out-group" = "Them"

In-group bias: viewing our perceived group as *superior*

In-group bias: viewing our perceived group as *superior*

In-group bias: viewing "our" in-group as *more diverse* than the out-group

We *stereotype* out-groups

U.S.

Women Arrested After Trespassing at Arizona Mosque and Mocking Islam

By JACEY FORTIN MARCH 16, 2018

"Look at this mosque, this ugly mosque, here in our backyard in America," said Tahnee Gonzales, referring to the Islamic Community Center in Tempe, Ariz. Ms. Gonzales and another woman were arrested after they recorded a video while taking things from the mosque. via Islamic Community Center of Tempe

Prejudice as learning AND dissonance

Sometimes, we *conform* to expectations…

…and then *justify* what we've done!

Scapegoating: we are more likely to act (discriminate) on our prejudices when we're *angry*

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Address http://www.sikhnet.com/s/SodhiJustice

Following the Balbir Singh Sodhi Trial

On September 11th, 2001, a tragic attack against the United States left thousands dead when Middle Eastern extremists flew two airplanes into the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center. Four days later in Mesa, Arizona, Balbir Singh Sodhi was shot and killed while planting flowers in front of his family-owned gas station. Balbir Singh was a gentle Sikh man who, in keeping with the tenets of his faith, kept a beard and wore a turban. His death was classified as a hate crime. Balbir Singh had been a beloved member of his local community, giving candy away to the neighborhood children and allowing people going through tough times to purchase gas on credit. His death sparked an outpouring of grief from the Mesa community and caught the attention of the international media. The entire Phoenix community stood with Balbir Singh and his family, decrying all acts of hatred and calling for the protection of innocent people, for peace between different cultures and religions.

The *"self-fulfilling prophecy"* & the *"confirmation bias"*

We act such that others respond to us by confirming our prejudices

"Just-world" thinking & *the "hindsight bias"*

"People get what they deserve."

*…*and thus (obviously, in hindsight)…

…victims of prejudice *must deserve it*

Psychology Oliver Burkeman column

Believing that life is fair might make you a terrible person

Oliver Burkeman

Faced with injustice, we'll try to alleviate it - but, if we can't, we'll do the next best thing, psychologically speaking: blame the victims of the injustice

How much sympathy you have for this woman probably depends on whether you feel the universe is a just place. Photograph: Alamy

@oliverburkeman

Tuesday 3 February 2015 10.15 EST

"Faced with injustice, we'll try to alleviate it – but if we can't we'll do the next best thing, psychologically speaking: blame the victims of injustice."

"(In the study) subjects observe(d) a woman undergo a series of tests. When the woman (ostensibly a fellow test subject but actually a grad student playing a role) got a question wrong, she was given a jolt of electricity. As the subjects looked on, the jolts became more severe. She writhed in pain. It gradually became clear: they were witnessing a woman being brutally tortured.

The subjects were understandably distressed. When given the option of changing the experiment, the vast majority chose to end the electric shocks. When they weren't given that option, however, (…) the participants continued to watch, unable to alter the victim's fate, they began to derogate the woman ("to say that someone is not important or worthy of respect")…*Irrationally, with no evidence to support it, the observers became convinced the woman deserved her punishment.*

The results…were the result of what (is) called "belief in a just world" — the natural tendency to see the universe as an essentially fair place. When presented with an obvious injustice, we try to resolve it…When we are helpless to change things, however, *rather than give up our belief in the essential rightness of the universe, we begin to rationalize away the unfairness.* The sight of a woman suffering without any hope of compensation was simply incompatible with a just world; in order to reconcile those two facts, observers irrationally decided she must have done something to justify her punishment.

The experiments…were investigations into that fundamental human impulse enshrined in ancient religions, new-age platitudes, and countless clichés: a belief that *people get what they deserve*, that what goes around comes around, that chickens inevitably come home to roost.

This is, of course, a demonstrable lie — *life is unfair*; chickens wander all over the place — and yet it remains a remarkably powerful belief.

Br J Educ Psychol. 2010 Jun;80(Pt 2):183-98. doi: 10.1348/000709909X479105. Epub 2009 Nov 21.

The association between adolescents' beliefs in a just world and their attitudes to victims of bullying.

Fox CL[1], Elder T, Gater J, Johnson E.

⊕ Author information

Abstract

BACKGROUND: Research which has investigated children's attitudes to bullying has found that the majority of children display anti-bullying attitudes. However, a small minority of children do appear to admire the bully and lack sympathy for victims of bullying. The just world belief theory has received a great deal of attention in recent years with evidence emerging in support of a two-dimensional model distinguishing between beliefs in a just world (BJW) for self and BJW for others. BJW-self (and not BJW-others) has been found to uniquely predict psychological well-being, whereas BJW-others (and not BJW-self) uniquely predicts harsh social attitudes and derogation of victims.

AIM: The aim of the present study was to measure BJW-self and others in a sample of UK secondary schoolchildren and to see whether BJW-others can account for adolescents' negative attitudes towards victims of bullying.

SAMPLE: In total, 346 pupils aged 11-16 years of age (270 males, 76 females) from two schools took part in the study.

METHODS: The participants completed measures of BJW-self and others, attitudes to victims of bullying, empathy, and self-esteem on a whole class basis.

RESULTS: It was found that BJW-others uniquely predicted adolescents' attitudes to victims but in the opposite direction to that which was predicted - high BJW were associated with stronger anti-bullying attitudes. As predicted, BJW-self (but not BJW-others) was positively and uniquely correlated with self-esteem.

CONCLUSION: The findings are discussed in the context of research which has found that the direction of the relationship between BJW-others and derogation of victims appears to depend on the nature of the injustice, with people with strong BJW less tolerant of severe injustices.

PMID: 19930790 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

"(*Belief in a Just World* – BJW) uniquely predicts harsh social attitudes and derogation of victims…(in this study) BJW…predicted *adolescents' attitudes to victims (of bullying)*…"

Span J Psychol. 2011 May;14(1):195-206.

Victim blaming and exoneration of the perpetrator in domestic violence: the role of beliefs in a just world and ambivalent sexism.

Valor-Segura I[1], Expósito F, Moya M.

⊕ **Author information**

Abstract

The existence of domestic violence is closely linked to several ideological factors that include sexism and other beliefs about society in general, namely the belief in a just world. In this study, which involved 485 people of both sexes aged between 18 and 70 years, we analyzed the influence of these ideological variables of the perceivers and characteristics of the situation on judgments of a gender aggression--blaming the victim and exonerating the perpetrator. Results showed differences in the reactions of observers depending on the cause that triggered the aggression. Participants blamed the victim and exonerated the aggressor more when no cause of the aggression was mentioned than when a cause was mentioned (the woman wanted to separate, to see an old male friend, or simply to take a trip with her female friends). We also found clear effects of hostile sexism and just world beliefs on the dependent variables. Results showed that the influence of just world beliefs depended on the fact of mention or not a cause for the aggression.

PMID: 21568177 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

"We…found clear effects of (…) *just world beliefs* on (blaming the *victim(s) of domestic violence*)…"

Cognitive dissonance: discomfort from having *conflicting thoughts*…

Thought 1: The world is a *fair* place

Thought 2: Bad things happen to *people who don't deserve it*

So we convince ourselves victims *are to blame*

THE POWER OF MYTH

How Psychology Explains the Slander of Trayvon Martin

Jesse Singal on the psychological quirks that perpetuate rumors and twist facts in difficult cases.

Jesse Singal 04.01.12 3:45 AM ET

Mario Tama / Getty Images

Another potentially powerful mechanism here is the so-called just-world hypothesis…we have a…powerful urge to see the world…as having some underlying force for justice guiding everything.

"People are strongly motivated to believe that the world is just—that people get what they deserve (…) "So people want to believe that a victim deserved it, or brought it on him/herself."

It's an understandable impulse, but not always a helpful one (…) "we often rationalize injustices away, so that we can maintain our naïve belief in a just world."

In this case, the idea of an unarmed teenager simply getting gunned down leaves our brains itching, in a sense, because it reeks of injustice. One way to scratch that itch is to decide that Martin did something to bring about the shooting—even if there's no evidence to suggest this is the case.

"If Trayvon was dangerous, then people can preserve the illusion that the world is just—if Trayvon was just an innocent kid, then that forces us to confront a harsh world that is psychologically much harder to deal with"